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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1941

by

JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staveley Urban District Council.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Composed of the whole of the Members of the Council.

Coun. I. WHITTON, J.P., Chairman,

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN R. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

H. NUTTALL, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and
Inspector under Shops Acts, Cleansing Superintendent).

Clerk : Miss K. WALTERS.

ANNUAL REPORT.



MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. SUTTON & GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for 1941. This report is even more abbreviated than usual as on the instructions from the Ministry of Health no tables showing population figures can be published, or any statistics published from which a population figure can be built up. All these tables, however, have been compiled and any Councillor wishing for particular information on any of the items omitted can be supplied.

The birth rate has risen nearly one per thousand and the death rate has dropped from 11.13 per thousand last year to 8.58 this year. The infantile death rate also shows a very substantial decrease.

Generally speaking the conditions of the District in this third year of war are very satisfactory. While there is a shortage of housing accommodation, this position is not so acute as in some of the neighbouring Districts and one great feature is, that this Council have no houses which have been condemned and owing to building restrictions have not been able to be re-housed.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

I have already mentioned in my introduction the drop in the death rate and the rise in the birth rate. As regards infantile deaths it is very gratifying that this figure has dropped from 76.65 per thousand in 1940 to 44.21 in 1941.

It has been noticed while immunising the school children that in the main, they are well clad and healthy and the general standard I should say, is if anything, higher than that which prevailed in the pre-war years. While it is difficult to give any definite reason for this I would venture to suggest that the general financial position of the majority of families has improved, and one is, therefore, entitled to assume that the purchasing power as regards food is greater. Another war time measure which has a hand in this improvement is the total black-out and the absence of late buses. It is very probable that in a great many families the bedtime hour for children is considerably earlier than that of peace time, and that the consequent longer hours of sleeping are quite as important in the health of the children as feeding.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Lowgates, Staveley.

JOHN R. GRAHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Birth Rate.

17.48 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Death Rate.

8.58 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	None.
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	None.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age.

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	44.21.
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births	48.14.
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

There has been no change in sewage and sewage disposal arrangements during the year.

Water Samples.

24 Water Samples have been taken during the year, of these two were unsatisfactory, but were reported satisfactory after second samples.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1941 :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	60
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	120
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	2
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	6
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By owners	23
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING :-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 60

(2) Number of persons dwelling therein 513

(3) Number of families dwelling therein 70

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year —

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases —

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —

5. NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS, 1941 —

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

There are three slaughterhouses in the area, but they are now only used for storage. 126 visits have been paid during the year and meat inspected.

There are no knackers yards in the area.

The number of carcasses inspected during the year were as follows :-

PIGS. 38.

A total of 28lbs. of diseased or unfit meat was surrendered from these carcasses, particulars of which are given below.

PIGS HEADS. Tuberculosis 28lbs.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1941.

Table showing the number of specimens sent from the Rural District, and examined at the County Laboratory, Derby.

Enterica :-				Pos.	Neg.
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A. & B.				Nil.	Nil.
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.				Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria				2	8
Phthisis				4	22
Milk :-					
T.B. Inoculation. Sent from Ministry of Agriculture				Nil.	Nil.
T.B. Inoculation Routine Samples				Nil.	Nil.
Methylene Blue Test				Nil.	Nil.
Bacillus Coli				Nil.	Nil.
Miscellaneous				Nil.	2
				6	32

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated At home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Total Number Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	31	28	—
Diphtheria	19	19	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	10	10	4
Pneumonia	17	—	4
Erysipelas	7	—	—
Polio-Myelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—
Measles	114	—	—
Whooping Cough	87	—	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were no cases notified.

DIPHTHERIA.

Nineteen cases were notified. No deaths were recorded.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-one cases were notified. No deaths were recorded.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Ten cases were notified and there were four deaths from this disease.

MEASLES.

One hundred and fourteen cases were notified. There were no deaths from this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Eighty seven cases were notified, and there was one death.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been going on steadily during the year. While the results are not as good as one hoped for the steady demand leads one to believe that the figure of 75% immunised will be reached in the following year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

	No. on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	47	96	2	2
Bakehouses	8	11	—	—
Slaughter-houses	3	260	—	—
Offensive Trades	1	1	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	59	368	2	2

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Summary of the work of the Sanitary Department.

	No. of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector	No. of Notices served.		No. of Nuisances abated with or without notice
		Informal	Legal	
Closets and Ashpits :-				
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (not for conversion)	12	1	—	1
Conversion of Privies into W.C's	—	—	—	—
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C's	—	—	—	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	—	—	—	—
Defective Water Closets	46	32	—	32
Provision of Additional W.C's	—	—	—	—
Provision of Portable Ashbins	64	28	—	148
Dirty Closets	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Drainage				
No disconnection of waste pipe	—	—	—	—
Defective waste pipe, traps, Inlets and Drains	14	7	—	7
Drains obstructed	11	3	—	5
Other Defects :-				
Paving of Courts and Yards	12	5	—	9
Roofs, Eaves-spouts and Downspouts	8	3	—	5
Sinks	—	—	—	—
Insufficient Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Windows	—	—	—	—
Dampness	—	—	—	—
Water in Cellars	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Foul Condition of Houses	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	4	2	—	2
Animals improperly kept	—	—	—	—
Pigsties	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Urinals	7	2	—	1
Nuisances not specified above	193	9	—	33
TOTAL	371	92	—	238

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	25	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	9	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	3	—	—
TOTAL	37	—	—

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

12 visits have been made in connection with rat infestation and approximately 270 have been destroyed.

Cyanogas Rodine Rod Squill Baits are used for rat destruction, and refuse tips are treated with poisons from time.

FACTORIES.

24 visits were paid to Offices in the District, and no case of infringement was noted.

Provision of extra conveniences were made in one factory for female employees.

BAKEHOUSES.

8 visits were made, and they were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SHOPS.

193 inspections were made to shops and markets, no action was found necessary.

